

be compared with the extraordinary plumage and colours of certain birds; the struggle for life would leave them unobliterated. We may then hardly affirm that pleasure or pain are evidences either of design in our creation, or of the practical efficiency of the evolutionary process. Pain leads us, in some cases, to avoid the harmful—to withdraw a foot when it is being crushed. In other cases it is merely an irremediable affliction: we cannot voluntarily dispel a headache. Pleasure and pain cannot logically be classed as impulses to action: for an action must be performed before we can become aware of the feeling which it will cause to us. And we have already seen that action, in its essence, precedes emotion. But they are of immense importance in the formation of habits, and in swaying the hesitating resolutions of the will. We must confess that their interference is often harmful. How many vicious habits does man not owe to the pleasure of vice!